

Medical Missionaries



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OF the two hundred and six (206) missionaries of our Church, twenty-one (21) are physicians, distributed as follows: Africa one, Brazil two, China twelve, Korea six. Of these six in Korea, two give their time wholly to evangelistic work, leaving a total of nineteen in active medical practice. Nineteen physicians to work among more than twenty million people in heathen lands! This is *one physician* to about *one million people*. In the United States and Canada there are one hundred and forty thousand physicians, or one physician to every six hundred and fifty people. The need for intelligent medical work among these heathen people is indiscribably great. The people are subject to all the diseases of civilized lands

and to many more. Because of the lack of competent medical aid hundreds of thousands die every year, who might otherwise be saved. At whose door does the neglect lie?

The native doctors doubtless do the best they can, but having no opportunity to learn, they are ignorant of anatomy any physiology, and many of even the simplest measures for the relief of suffering, and prevention and cure of disease. Needling is practiced in many of these countries, A needle, frequently dull and rusty, is plunged into various parts of the body to let out the disease. In many cases the patient is burned with fire as a curative measure. Dislocated or fractured bones are left unreduced. Small-pox is looked upon as the work of evil spirits, and the people offer sacrifice of rice and other foods in order to propitiate the evil spirits, no measures being taken to isolate the case. As a consequence of this neglect to isolate the case, the disease spreads on all sides, and thousands of people—especially little children—are carried away every year from this cause alone. Sorcerers and Sorceresses prey upon the superstition of the sick, professing to drive out the evil spirits that cause disease by the beating of

drums, incantations and other heathen practices. The contrast between the methods of modern medicine and that of the Korean doctors and sorcerers, as well as the results attained, appear quickly to the natives and they come in great numbers to the "foreign doctors" for relief. And many who come to the "foreign doctors" for the relief of bodily ills find "The Great Physician" as the Saviour of their souls. God used the work of medical missionaries in the opening of China, Korea and other lands to the Gospel, and is now using the medical work in the further evangelization of those countries. The work has the sanction and authority of our Saviour, who gave His priceless time for the healing of those who "needed a physician," and sent the disciples to "heal the sick." The doctors on the field are greatly hampered in their work by lack of proper facilities. There are only three completed hospitals in the whole field, most of the work being done in small dispensaries lacking rooms for surgical work and wards in which to keep patients, and in many cases the work is done with very crude appliances. Yet God has blessed the work. With better equipment better work will be done

and more patients treated and more won for Christ.

Shall we not equip this most needy and effective work with hospitals, instruments, medicines, and all the necessary supplies, and push it until something adequate to the appalling needs of the work is done?

Our Saviour said: "In asmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

